Please add new claims 45-47 as follows.

1. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) An image processing method implemented in a printing system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data);

changing the RIP Data in accordance with an operator's adjustments, such that the changing of the RIP Data occurs while the printing system is printing a print job, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job;

subjecting the changed RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered data; and

outputting the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 and including subjecting the changed RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according claim 13 and including the step of modifying the blended output into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein changed RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method of altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed, the method comprising the steps of:

rasterizing the input digital image into rasterized image data (RID);

separating the RID into separated rasterized contone gray level image data;

altering the separated rasterized contone gray level image data in accordance with an operator's adjustments, such that the altering occurs while a print job is being printed, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job;

subjecting the altered rasterized image data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered data; and

outputting the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 and including subjecting the altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 19 and including the step of modifying the output of the blending operation into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

22. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for processing a digital image comprising:

a printer configured at least to print a print job;

a raster image processor (RIP) configured at least to provide rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data); and

an image processor configured at least to:

alter the RIP Data in accordance with an operator's adjustments, such that the altering occurs while the printer is printing the print job, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job;

subject the altered RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered data; and

output the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the image processor is configured to alter the RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blend the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according claim 27 wherein the image processor is configured to modify the blended output into a binary image file and subjects the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the altered RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

31. – 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the changing step changes a color saturation represented by the RIP Data.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the altering step changes a color saturation represented by the separated rasterized contone gray level image data.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the RID is rasterized CMYK image data.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the image processor is configured to alter a color saturation represented by the RIP Data in accordance with the operator's adjustments.

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the RIP Data is rasterized CMYK image data.

45. (New) The image processing method of Claim 13, wherein the RIP Data is final RIP Data that is not subjected to further rasterization prior to printing by the printing system.

46. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the RID is data that is not subsequently rerasterized prior to printing.

47. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the RIP Data is final RIP Data that is not subjected to further rasterization prior to printing by the printer.